

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 11-13 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 have been amended to advance prosecution in the instant application. Claim 13 has been added. Please reconsider the application in light of the following amendments to claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 11-12, newly added claim 13, and the associated remarks set forth below.

The Applicants respectfully request a telephone interview to discuss the following remarks and the claim amendments at the Examiner's earliest convenience. The Applicants are attempting to advance the prosecution in the instant application to allowance. The Applicants believe that the instant amendments to the application and claims place the claims in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims are made in accordance with suggestions made by the Examiner in the most recent Office Action. If the Examiner should disagree, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide additional insight permitting the application to pass to issue in the requested telephone interview.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luce and Belcher. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. However, in light of the amendments to the claims set forth herein and as suggested by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are now moot for at least the following reasons.

The Applicants respectfully assert that the claims as currently constructed at least set forth a power transmission chain having a front side and a backside. The chain also comprises drive links. The drive links comprising two front side chain teeth extending from a front side of the chain. The two front side chain teeth, as presently claimed after amendment, extend from the same side of the chain, i.e., the front side. The Applicants' claims, as amended, render the teaching of the proposed combination of Luce and Belcher moot.

The proposed combination of Luce and Belcher is different from the Applicants' claimed invention, because Luce, as admitted by the Examiner in the Final Office Action mailed on 25 March 2004 does not disclose links comprising teeth. Belcher discloses links disposed in opposing directions. Neither of the cited references, Luce and Belcher, teach, suggest, or disclose drive links comprising two front side chain teeth extending from the front side of the

chain, as set forth in the Applicants' claims. Further, it would not be obvious to modify the teachings of Luce and Belcher because neither reference suggests such a modification.

Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12, as amended, are allowable over the proposed combination of Luce and Belcher. The Applicants request that rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luce and Kozakura. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. However, in light of the amendments to the claims set forth herein and as suggested by the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are now moot for at least the following reasons.

The Applicants respectfully assert that the claims as currently constructed at least set forth drive links comprising two front side chain teeth extending from a front side of the chain. The two front side chain teeth extend from the same side of the chain, i.e., the front side. The Applicants' claims, as amended, render the teaching of the proposed combination of Luce and Kozakura moot.

The proposed combination of Luce and Kozakura is different from the Applicants' claimed invention. Luce, as admitted by the Examiner in the Final Office Action mailed on March 25, 2004, does not disclose links comprising teeth. Kozakura fails to remedy the deficiencies of Luce and does not teach that either side of a chain link may be accepted between adjacent sprocket teeth. (Figure 1 and col. 3, line 65 through col. 4, line 6).

Further, the Applicants set forth in claim 6, as amended, a power transmission chain engaging a backside drive sprocket and positioning a first series of drive links between and engaging sprocket teeth of a first series of sprocket teeth and a second series of drive links between and engaging a second series of sprocket teeth. Further, Kozakura does not teach a chain link being positioned between adjacent sprocket teeth. The Applicants respectfully assert that the proposed combination of Luce and Kozakura is different from the Applicants' claimed invention, as amended, for at least the reasons set forth above.

The Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12, as amended, are allowable over the proposed combination of Luce and Kozakura. The Applicants request that rejection of claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

The Applicants also submit herewith a recently discovered reference having a filing date much later than the Applicants' application. The reference: HORIE et al., US Patent 6,685,589, (HORIE), was issued on February 3, 2004, and was filed on February 13, 2002. Newly added claim 13 was copied, with corrections, from claim 1 of HORIE. The Applicants respectfully assert that claim 13 is fully supported by the Applicants' disclosure.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner carefully consider the submitted reference in conjunction with and along with preparation for the requested telephone interview. The Applicants assert that the submitted reference bears many similarities to the Applicants' claimed invention and has already been allowed. The Applicants assert that because the Applicants' date of priority of invention is prior to the HORIE reference, the Applicants' application should also be passed immediately to issue.

The Applicants also submit herewith the European search report and the references associated therewith. The Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references cited on the European search report, alone or in combination, anticipate or make obvious the Applicants' claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

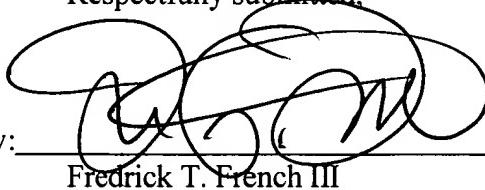
Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicants believe that claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11, and 12, as amended, and new claim 13, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner disagrees or has any question regarding this submission, the Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (312) 775-8000.

A Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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